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P 021449Z MAY 06
FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4190
INFO RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0886
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0679
RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 2894
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 2695
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0665
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 5245
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO 0415
RUEHSQ/AMEMBASSY SKOPJE 4091
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 2760
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB 2918
RUEPGBA/CDR USEUCOM INTEL VAIHINGEN GE
RHMFISS/CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHMFISS/COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RHDLCNE/COMUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
RUFNPKB/COMUSNAVEUR POLAD NAPLES IT
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEHNW/DIR DTSPD WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 3250
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2136
RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA 3392

C O N F I D E N T I A L TIRANA 000434

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STATE FOR EUR/SCE (MBENEDICT/DSAINZ) AND IO/UNP
NSC FOR BRAUN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/02/2016
TAGS: [KUNR](#) [PREL](#) [OPDC](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [UNGA](#) [AL](#)
SUBJECT: ALBANIA SEEKS SEAT ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Classified By: AMBASSADOR MARCIE RIES. REASONS: 1.4 (B) AND (D).

¶1. (C) FM Minister Mustafaj told Ambassador May 1 that Albania would put its name forward for a spot on the UN Human Rights Commission, and asked for USG support. Mustafaj told the Ambassador that former UN SecGen Boutros-Boutros Ghali had written to Francophone countries in support of Albania's candidacy and is also seeking OIC support. Earlier, Deputy FM Harxhi told DCM that Albania is very serious about seeking this position and was committed to doing a good job should it be chosen for the commission.

¶2. (C) Comment: We believe Albania is a serious candidate for a seat on the HRC, and should be given strong USG consideration. Albania's human rights record is, by and large, a good one despite its admitted problems with pre-detention holding cells and judicial corruption. A moderate, very pro-western Muslim country, Albania seems exactly the type of country to promote for this types of commission -- a) It has good values when it comes to human rights and an excellent record when it comes to human rights issues at the UN. (The Foreign Minister was himself a founder of a human rights NGO.) b) We believe we can rely on it consistently to vote the right way on key issues such as Venezuela and Iran. c) It has an excellent record in the GWOT, including votes at the UN. d) In the region it has been calling for attention to human rights of minorities in Kosovo.
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